

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2475

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EC

SUBJECT: CEOSL'S JOSE CHAVEZ TALKS TO GENERAL DURAN

1. IN A DEC. 8 CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL LABOFF, CEOSL (ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS) SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE CHAVEZ REPORTED A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT MEMBER GENERAL GUILLERMO DURAN ON DEC. 7.

2. ACCORDING TO CHAVEZ, GENERAL DURAN:

-- REFUSED A CHAVEZ PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD HAVE AVOIDED A NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE BY ECUADOR'S THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS;

-- SAID THAT THE GOE WAS WAITING FOR A PERIOD OF POLITICAL CALM BEFORE NAMING THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMISSIONS; AND

-- SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY STILL INTENDED TO TRANSFER POWER TO A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN JANUARY, 1978, SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE A "TEST" AND THAT FINAL CIVILIAN RULE WILL BE CONDITIONAL ON THE CONTINUATION OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORDER.

3. CHAVEZ SAID THAT IN VIEW OF DURAN'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT CEOSL'S PROPOSAL, THE CONFEDERATIONS WERE DISPOSED TO CARRY
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OUT THE OFT DISCUSSED NATIONAL STRIKE. PLANNING FOR THE

STRIKE WOULD RESUME FOLLOWING CEOSL'S UPCOMING CONGRESS
NOW LIKELY TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY.

4. THE CURRENT MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR CEOSL, IN CHAVEZ'
VIEW, IS THE ATMOSPHERE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESSION OF TRADE
UNION RIGHTS. ACCORDING TO CHAVEZ, THE UNIONS ARE GETTING
NO ACTION FROM THE LABOR MINISTRY AND ARE LOSING VIRTUALLY
ALL APPEALS. CHAVEZ RELATES THESE PROBLEMS TO WHAT HE
REGARDS AS THE INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE POLITICAL CLIMATE.
BLOOMFIELD

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